

# THE CHIMES

## GRAND (RE)OPENING!!

Back to School doesn't always align with the hearts and flowers feelings we have around Valentine's Day, but this year, our focus is turning toward LOVE! From our Stewardship emphasis on Stewarding God's Love to the ways we're showing our community God's love through our missional engagements, to the ways we're showing love through our faith formation opportunities, it's going to seem like we're celebrating Valentine's Day in Autumn!

Our Grand (Re)Opening is one more way we're going to celebrate God's unfailing love! Join us on Sunday, September 12 for a festive worship service followed by a (Re)Opening Fair! Committees, Teams, and Groups of the church will be hosting booths (yes, there will be prizes) and each person will get a passport. You'll be invited to visit the booths and other locations in the church to collect stamps and treats. Along the way, we'll all learn a little something about how to connect with ministries this fall. Bring a friend! This is a great way to introduce folks to the fullness of UPC's ministry!

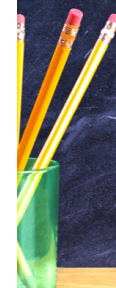
## It's Never Too Early

In many ways, the last 18 months have been excruciating. Family members separated from one another. Community life seriously curtailed. Masks everywhere. And so much grief. Here at UPC we have suffered many losses and have been reminded of our own fragility. This fall, Pastor Debra and our Faith Community Nurse, Keli Briggs will be presenting a series of post-worship forums that will focus on thinking ahead about healthcare and end of life decision-making. These forums, offered on Third Sundays will feature guest speakers who are experts in the areas of focus. Lunch and child care will also be provided. Whether you're thinking about this for yourself or for someone you love, this will help folks at every stage of life. It's never too early to be thinking about these kinds of decisions.

- **Session 1: September 19 - *What is end of life? When is end of life? How should we get ready?*** A panel discussion will include the perspectives of those who care for families in moments where decisions often come too quickly.
- **Session 2: October 17 - *Wills, Trusts, and Directives, Oh My!*** Rev. Dr. Craig Howard of the Presbyterian Foundation will guide a conversation about wills, durable powers of attorney, healthcare proxies, setting up guardianships for dependents, living will directives, and more.
- **Session 3: November 21 - *When the End Draws Near: Palliative Care, Hospice, and End of Life Decisionmaking*** Practitioners in these areas will share important information and offer guidance about navigating these important moments.
- **Session 4: December 5 - *Grief and Grieving: Beginning, Middle, and ...?*** Losing a loved one impacts us in many ways. From making memorial service decisions to coping with holidays and special anniversaries and everything in between, we often aren't sure where to turn. This session will not only provide grief resources, but will also provide material to help clear the way for grief by making some decisions well in advance.

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# Worship & The Arts

When I was a child I loved the preparation that was involved with going back to school. I carry that with me now as an adult. There is a feeling of new beginnings and the idea that anything is possible. This year I have that feeling even more. We have been out of sorts and in limbo for over 18 months. As a musician, I have grieved the rehearsals and time spent with friends as we prepared for Advent and the last church year. That is why there is an even greater level of excitement at the start of this year. This year will be a year of development. So much has happened since Covid. It is time to rebuild and add to what we already have here at UPC. WE NEED YOU!!!! There are several areas that you will have an opportunity to serve in. Below, you will find a list of areas and starting dates. Please contact me with any questions you might have and to sign up today. [alison@unitedpc.org](mailto:alison@unitedpc.org)

- **Bells** - (Ages 11 and up) Meets every Wednesday from 5:30pm-6:15pm and serves one Sunday a month during service. *Rehearsals will begin September 22nd.*
- **Sanctuary Choir** - (Ages 11 and up) We will meet every Sunday after church from 11:00am-11:30am in the choir room. Child care will be provided. The choir will serve during two services a month. *Rehearsals will begin September 26.*
- **Worship Band** - We meet every Wednesday from 6:15pm-7:30pm. We are in need of all kinds of instruments. You are welcome to volunteer for as many or as few Sundays as you would like.
- **Brass, String and Wind Ensemble** - (All Levels of Players Welcome) This is a special group that will be formed for Advent and Christmas. We will practice for 6 weeks leading up to Christmas. Rehearsals are TBD.
- **Drama Group** - (All ages welcome) We will perform a few skits throughout the year and rehearsals are TBD. We will have a special opportunity for Advent Season.
- **Children's Choir** - This will be a short term opportunity from October to December. We will be learning a few songs and a small drama to perform during Advent Season. Rehearsals will be the last 15 minutes of every Sunday School class with a few Saturday rehearsals leading up to the performance.
- **Amica Youth Choir** - (Ages 11-18) This is a choir for all young people. Invite your neighbors, friends and family to be part of this choir. They will rehearse every Wednesday from 4:30-5:30 starting September 22. They will perform at several community events and a few church services throughout the year.
- **Worship Leaders** - (All ages welcome) Worship Leaders serve one Sunday every few months. There will be a training on Sunday August 29th from 11-12pm in the Sanctuary. You will receive your scripts and instruction for the way we will proceed as liturgists from now on.
- **Sanctuary Arts Group** - (All ages welcome) This group will assist with creating and displaying artwork throughout the church and sanctuary. We will work to bring a visual aspect to the sermon series or lectionary text for any given Sunday. No art experience is necessary. We will meet on August 15 from 11am-12pm in Room 105.

## Worship in August and September

- **August 1** - One! (Ephesians 4:1-16) Guiding Question: What does united mean? Join us after worship for our famous corn boil.
- **August 8** - Our VBS Celebration will focus on Genesis 1 and God's beautiful creations.
- **August 15** - Good Decisions (1 Kings 3:3-14) Blessing the Backpacks and Celebration of the Baptism of the Boswell Girls.
- **August 22** - Music Sunday with worship led by The Band!!
- **August 29** - Doing Christianity (James 1:17-27) Guiding Question: What Are We Actually Doing?
- **September 5** - "Hole"ness (James 2:1-17) Guiding Question: Are we whole?
- **September 12** - GRAND REOPENING: We Love Our Church! (1 John 4:7-19)
- **September 19** - STEWARDSHIP KICKOFF - Love Comes In Last (Mark 9:30-37) Guiding Question: Where do we aim our goals?
- **September 26** - Love Is on the Lord's Side (Mark 9:38-50 and Psalm 124) Guiding Question: Are we on the Lord's side and how do we know?



# HELP

**WAIT!!** Before you move past this page, please take a moment to look at your calendar. Think about how much we all missed each other and how much we yearned for worship and activities to take place in our church home.

Thanks be to God we are moving back toward regular programming. As we follow CDC guidelines, masks will be part of our lives for now, but we are forging ahead. That means we need to restart our Welcome programs with our new Welcome Team format. Please read on to find out how you can connect with this important ministry. It's something EVERYONE can do. (a note from Pastor Debra)

## Welcome Team! An Invitation from Alison.

When I arrived here in September of 2019 there was a well established machine of volunteers on Sunday mornings. We had a group of ushers that met people at the doors and gave them bulletins. There were greeters at each door to help people find their way and zone shepherds waited in specific spots to greet anyone that was visiting for the first time. During Covid those positions went away. Now that we are embarking on a full return to church, we have decided to streamline the three groups into one team. The Welcome Team will take over as the group that greets and ushers people in while also meeting and welcoming visitors. .

When people talk about this church they say time and time again how friendly and welcoming we are. We want to continue being the face of friendship, acceptance, love and hospitality through The Welcome Team. Here's how it works:

1. Volunteer for the team that is right for you by signing up for a particular week.
2. Watch your inbox for an email the the week that you are signed up to serve.
3. The email will let you know your assignment.
  - o You may be at the door to the Narthex or the portico doors. While there you will welcome people and help them find their way within the building.
  - o You might be assigned to the doors to the sanctuary. In that case you will ask people if they need help finding a seat and you will give them a bulletin.
  - o At any of these positions, if you notice that this is the first time you have seen this person you will offer them a welcome gift and be ready to answer any questions that they might have.

This is a great opportunity to meet people and to serve. This can be something people of all ages and abilities can do. Sitting down is perfectly perfect! FAMILIES! This is a great opportunity for you to serve together. Grandchildren and grandparents would make wonderful additions as well. Call the office to sign up or check out The Ringer for volunteer links.



**We're so grateful to those who have stepped up over the past several months!**

# Christian Education News

## For the Kids

- **Creation Station VBS:** There's still time to join us on August 2 – 6 from 6 to 8PM for our ALL AGES VBS! As we focus on God's amazing creativity, we'll listen to the Creation story using Godly Play, including a special storyteller who will work with Adults, too! Then we will break into mixed age groups and respond to the story with different fine arts options. Activities will include drawing, painting, dancing, drama, and textiles. AND OF COURSE nature hikes on our beautiful campus! We will celebrate with an awesome worship service on Sunday August 8.
- **Sunday School:** Watch your mail for a packet of Information for our fall programming. As much as possible, we plan to continue with outdoor learning.



## Fall Spiritual Formation Opportunities for Adults

This fall, we're looking forward to several different opportunities for spiritual growth. There will be something for everyone! Join us for one or more of these groups

- Sundays at 9AM beginning September 12 - Sunday School continues with the , taking up the books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth.
- Bible Study with Pastor Debra begins again on Wednesday, September 15. We'll be taking up John's Gospel with an eye toward January when we will take up the other writings of John - the letters and Revelation. We'll meet on Wednesdays at 10:30AM (in person and Zoom) and 7:30PM (Zoom only)
- Monthly Forums beginning with our 3rd Sunday "It's Not Too Early" forum on September 19

## Keeping Our Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults Safe

At the May Session meeting, our elders created a special committee to take a closer look at what it means to make our church a safe place for all people. *The special committee is comprised of Don Hartshorn, Alexis Maloof, Betty Pugh and Pastor Debra.*

They began their work by looking at a Child and Youth Safety Policy that had been developed here a few years ago. Though this document had not been approved by Session, it did provide a good foundation. Their process included researching PCUSA denominational policy guidelines, state regulations and definitions, and looking at what other churches have put into place. The primary goal for the committee was to create protocols and guidelines to prevent and/or report suspected abuse of children, youth, and vulnerable adults who are part of our church and/or who participate in our programming. *The committee's work did not extend to UPC Discovery as there are already policies in place which are guided by DCFS and accreditation regulations.*

At the July Session meeting, the policy was approved with the stipulation that It be implemented by the end of 2021. The policy includes expanding beyond a focus on children and youth to include vulnerable adults defined by the State of Illinois as any person over age 60 and adults with disabilities ages 18-59. Key features include:

- Requirements for training of the congregation, staff and volunteers
- Requirements for background checks for all staff and volunteers
- Identifying processes for maintaining the privacy of families, staff and volunteers while tracking and storing required information.

We will begin training and background checks over the next few months. Watch for an upcoming congregational information session to find out more. For more information, feel free to contact one of the special committee members. To learn more about the priorities of our denomination for safety, check out this website:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/legal-resources/creating-safe-ministries/>



# Missional Engagement

So many times, Jesus reminded his followers that their work was to feed the hungry, offer water to the thirsty, free those imprisoned, heal the sick, comfort the grieving. With so many needs in and around our church, we want to keep you updated on how you can engage in service. Check out these opportunities and try to participate in at least one of them over the next two months.

## **Peace and Global Witness Offering**

The Peace & Global Witness Offering, one of the PCUSA Mission offerings, is received on World Communion Sunday, October 3rd. A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the entire church to collaborate in our proclamation of Christ's peace. Our church will keep 25% of the funds collected to be utilized locally and globally to engage in peacemaking and build ministries of reconciliation.

## **Faith in Action- fall edition**

Break out the blue Faith in Action shirts for another day of hands-on service for all ages following service on Sunday, September 19. There will be many different ways to get involved on church property or out in the community! Keep an eye out in the Ringer or at church for a sign up sheet closer to the date or feel free to just show up on that day and we will find a spot for you!

Thank you for your support!

## **Gratitude!**

Thank you for the generosity of the congregation for the donations of backpacks and school supplies benefiting foster children in the Peoria area! Please keep the students in your prayers as they return to school this fall.

## **Projeto Amar Update and Prayer Requests**

Projeto Amar I and II are back to meeting in person with heavy precautions in place to dissuade the spread of COVID-19 while also still trying to connect with families. COVID-19 numbers are still very high in the region, and so the centers are running at 30% capacity and utilizing a staggered structure very similar to the A and B schedules implemented by the local public school district here. Programs currently meeting are serving all of the kiddos, but specific engagement efforts are emphasized for youth; struggling with many of the same adolescent issues that our teens in the USA encounter. The children are excited to be able to engage with one another again, and staff and Centers across the globe are taking advantage of the technological revolution to participate in training and continuing education. Prayer concerns:

- Projeto Amar II is meeting temporarily in a church; they would like to have a permanent location for the program that will be better suited for running the program. They also currently have one paid staff member, Ludovina, at that program site. They'd love to add more volunteers / staff.
- Pray for the adolescents as they face similar struggles to teens here in the US – the pandemic has created a lot of opportunity for adolescents to feel isolated & anxious. They also are susceptible to excessive time on the Internet, watching pornography, & engaging in sexual activity at a young age. Violence & drug use are very common in the neighborhoods where the Projeto Amar programs are located, so prayers for protection are appreciated.
- Pray for protection from COVID-19; Brazil continues to be very hard hit by the pandemic. Please pray for protection over the staff, children and families.

## **Food on the Fourth**

- On the 4th Sunday of the month, bring delicious nonperishable food to provide to local food pantries. As COVID-related funding is eliminated, this is more Important than ever. NOTE: Because our UPC kids are in Sunday School, we will provide a basket in the front of the sanctuary on 4th Sundays and you are invited to drop your donations there before worship begins. We'll bless them in our prayer time

# News from Our Faith Community Nurse

## COVID-19 Vaccine Considerations

**Currently, 46.81% of the Illinois population have been fully vaccinated.**

In Illinois, the 7-day average number of Covid cases is 379. The 7-day average number of deaths is 9. The total number of cases for Illinois is 1,394,852. The total number of deaths is 25,748. While these numbers will continue to fluctuate, the impact is sobering.

As a parent of children under 12 years of age, you likely face continued concerns about their health and well-being with respect to the Covid virus. It is important for everyone to consider that currently the COVID-19 vaccine is not approved for children younger than 12 years old.

Also, of concern is the recently identified delta variant, which is now the dominant coronavirus strain. The delta variant is highly transmissible and is now in at least 104 countries. As of July 3rd, the delta variant represented 51.7% of new Covid cases in the United States. However, experts tell us the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are effective against the Delta strain. The effectiveness of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine against the strain is being studied by Federal officials.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe, having been developed using science that has been around for decades. The COVID-19 vaccines went through all the required stages of clinical trials and are not experimental. The vaccines are effective in keeping a person from getting and spreading COVID-19. In addition, the COVID-19 vaccine will not cause a person to become magnetic, will not alter DNA, will not cause a person to test positive on a COVID-19 viral test, and will not make a person sick with COVID-19.

Finally, it's important to remember that we are a community and that we have a commitment to care for one another. In an article from the Presbyterian Mission Agency, vaccination is lifted up as an important step we can take to reduce infections and deaths from COVID-19. Rev. Dr. Angela Johnson, pastor of Grace Hope Presbyterian Church states, "I am grateful for this opportunity to witness to my community that the vaccine is safe and effective. Presbyterians trust that God works in all things for good. I celebrate the good that God is bringing through the COVID-19 vaccine. It is one giant step toward ending the pain and suffering of the coronavirus pandemic."

If you'd like more Information, or would like to dig deeper into this Issue, check in with our Faith Community Nurse, Keli Briggs. She can provide you with a variety of links to help.



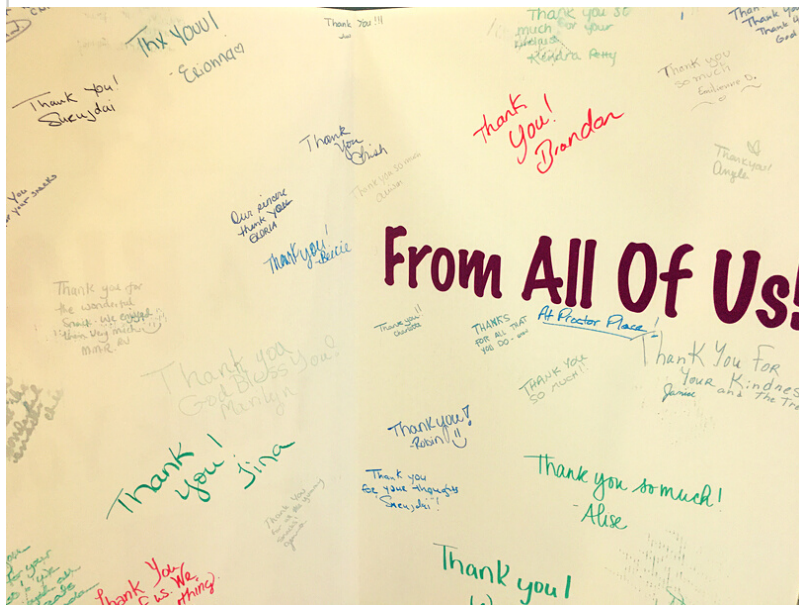
## Water Challenge Check-In

I hope you are enjoying your UPC water bottle and drinking lots of water. Don't forget to email me by August 31st about your experience with this activity. Everyone who sends an email will be entered in a drawing for a gift card.

Thank you,  
Keli (keli@unitedpc.org)



# Community Care



We received this 2 ft. X 3 ft. thank you card from Proctor Place in thanks for all the treats we sent them to thank them for all their hard work during the pandemic.

## Other Notes of Thanks

Dear Fellow Members,  
I want to thank my visiting Deacon, Bev Ranson, for sending me a fun 4th of July bag of gifts. It was so thoughtful of her to do that and it reminds me of "my church". Keep up this mission. We at home appreciate it.

Love,  
Mary Zentgraf

Dear United Presbyterian Church,  
Thanks so much for the treats that you gave to the staff at Buehler Home! Your kindness is so amazing! Thank you from: Health Care, Housekeeping and Laundry, Dietary Department, Maintenance, Business Office, and Activities.

To My Church Family,  
With my stay in Proctor Hospital my room was decorated by a beautiful red rose which I received from my church family. I so appreciate the calls and cards and the rose I received including prayers for continuing for good health.  
Thank you,  
Mike Kelley

## Prayer List

- Eunice Andrews
- Jim Andrews
- Phyl Beebe
- Mary Buesing
- Bill Bunker
- Bernie Cambron
- Jennifer Danosky
- Carolyn Gnepper
- Pat Hagenbuch
- MaryEtta Hanson
- Carol Hicks
- Bill Huber
- Peggy Jackson
- Mary Johnson
- Michelle Johnson
- Terry Johnson
- Dwight Jones
- Zella Knobloch
- Debra Kutter
- Virleen Mach
- David McDowell
- Stephanie Murray
- Regetta Parsons
- Hendrix Porter
- Regetta Parsons
- Hendrix Porter
- Jack Umdenstock
- Parker Waldschmidt
- Jim & Pat Weinkauff
- Valerie Werner
- Richard West
- Fritz Wooster's Family

*Prayers of Christian sympathy are extended to many who lost loved ones over the past several weeks:*

*The family of Pastor Emeritus Randy Saxon  
The family of Stan Strickler*

*The family of Joe Duncan (Pam Scranton's Father)  
Jaci Packard & Susan Haag on the death of Jaci's father.*



# Stewardship at UPC

## Treasurer's Talk (from Les Boswell)

I hope everyone is enjoying summer – there has been lots happening at UPC over the last few months. If you've driven by the church recently, you might have seen the parking lot being repaved. This was a big project and thanks to the Properties Committee for coordinating this work! As usual, now that the work is done, we have to pay the bill. The cost for the parking lot work ended up being just under \$190,000. So how do we pay for that?

Last year, there was talk about possibly using undesignated funds from Foundation for half and conducting a congregational fundraising drive to raise the other half. This was certainly a viable option but because of God's generosity, we will not need to do this. Over the past few weeks, UPC has received roughly \$270,000 in undesignated gifts from the estates of church members. A portion of these generous gifts has been designated by Session to pay for the parking lot work. The remainder has been earmarked as seed funding to jumpstart our new Capital Improvement and Building Maintenance Fund in Foundation. UPC is truly blessed by these gifts!

These gifts also serve as a powerful reminder of the impact each one of us can make in the life of UPC as part of our estate planning. I'd encourage anyone that might be thinking about leaving a legacy to the church to discuss this with Pastor Debra or me. It's important to note that had we not received these gifts we very likely would have embarked on the fundraising drive mentioned above. While that was not needed for this project, there will likely be future projects or initiatives which will present opportunities for giving. We're so grateful for the many ways UPC has responded when a need arises and I'm confident we'll continue to do that as a congregation.

### UPC Financial Overview

(YTD through June 30, 2021)

<b>Income</b>	\$304,678
<b>Expenses</b>	\$335,439
<b>Grants received</b>	PPP Loan/Grant
<b>% of pledges received</b>	68%

### UPC Discovery Overview

(YTD through June 30, 2021)

<b>Income</b>	\$194,165
<b>Expenses</b>	\$146,383
<b>Grants received since January</b>	Illinois Child Care Restoration Grant

## Foundation Report

(through June 30, 2021)

Restricted Funds: \$937,184

Unrestricted Funds: \$2,097,853.40

Funds Granted in June & July: No grants requested

New Foundation funds approved:

- Capital Improvement and Building Maintenance Fund – to provide a reserve fund for major capital & maintenance expenses such as the new parking lot, new roof, replacing a boiler or similar items. Contributions to this fund may be made by anyone at any time.
- Fund to honor the memory of Rev. Dr. Randall Saxon – This fund will receive the memorial contributions given in his memory and will be used to maintain and further develop God's natural sanctuary at UPC. The name of the fund and criteria for use is being developed jointly with the Saxon family.

Other News: Foundation has requested a joint meeting with Session in October to discuss how Foundation funds may be better utilized as part of the annual budgeting process for next year.

**Foundation Committee:** Rich Helm, chair; Tom Gramkow, Evan Hague, Sharon Lansdowne, Sandy Nott, and Sean Scranton.



# FALLing in Love @UPC

## Stewards of God's Love

The Session has begun the budget preparation process (yes, ALREADY!!) and along with that work comes our annual Stewardship campaign. This year, we'll be focusing on what it means to love - love our neighbors, love God, love our church. We've already seen so many generous gifts of love flowing through UPC - from memorial gifts offered out of love for folks like Ralph, Delores, Joe, Stan, Felicia, Jack, and Pastor Randy to the way we respond to requests for special offerings to help our neighbors in need, to the many, many, MANY ways we show up to support the missional work that brings hope to those around us. Watch your mail/email for more details about our pledge campaign, but why not begin now to consider how you want to support the ministry of our church next year.

## We HEART Faith Formation

We're excited to announce that Session approved opening a search for a new full time staff member - Director of Faith Formation and Education. This person will work alongside Pastor Debra and Alison to deepen our practice of growing and nurturing followers of Jesus. The goals for this position include:

- Creating safe, fun, and educational atmosphere that facilitates deepening relationships with God, each other, and their neighbors
- Ensuring the inclusion of all people regardless of educational level or ability
- Providing bridges that help people engage with all of UPC's ministries
- Helping UPC serve the wider community through formation and education programming
- Providing opportunities for interaction with caring individuals; small groups; and large group experiences.
- Equipping and encouraging volunteers so that they are able to grow as followers through their service.
- Looking for ways to collaborate across ministry areas.
- Fostering lifelong learning and growth that helps to strengthen our relationship with God and with our community.

Connected to this, we will be restructuring the current Christian Education Committee, creating three new teams:

- 1) Children's Formation Team (ages 0 - 5th grade)
- 2) Youth Formation Team (6th - 12th grades)
- 3) Adult Formation Team (includes Young Adults/College Ministry which could become a separate team if needed)

Please let Pam Scranton (Chair of Christian Education Committee) or Pastor Debra know of your interest in serving on one of these teams. The teams will meet regularly as determined by the team and will be responsible for partnering with Pastor Debra and the new staff person in developing new offerings and sustaining ongoing programs.

## Love is All Around Us!





# Nature Connections News



## Repurposing the Pergola!

The Nature Connections Committee has been hard at work repurposing the pergola in the Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom. Last year COVID protocol required UPC Discovery teachers to do as much teaching as they could outdoors. During the time the school was closed in 2020 teachers also studied Forest Schools of Scandinavia and learned new ways to enhance outdoor learning. They are now even more committed to being outside for extended amounts of time.



In planning for next school year, they requested an additional area sheltered from sun and rain. Instead of putting up a new structure it was decided to convert our entry pergola into a covered deck. By adding side curtains, it also can be a stage for Sunday School, Bible School or small services. Richard Helm, Dave Rouzer, Don Hartshorn and Tom Harrison worked their magic and now we have a covered deck for Godly Play, drama, music and journal writing.

## Playground Redevelopment Underway

Our large climbing playground structure broke again and is aging (25 years). Properties Committee patched it up so we can safely use it another couple of months but the time has come to replace it. The Preschool Committee empowered a Preschool Playground Task Force to develop a plan to replace the structure and to increase the usability of that area for Sunday School and families after church. Several years ago, the Preschool Committee established a playground fund housed in foundation for this purpose. In addition, the preschool received funds from the Illinois Child Care Restoration Grant because the preschool (full day and part day) remained open during the Covid crisis. The purpose of these funds is to support and enhance child care centers.

Key church groups that use or have potential of using the area were invited to appoint a representative to the Task Force. Members and the group they represent are Judy Helm, Chair; Lora Taylor (Director); Pam Scranton (Christian Ed and Preschool Committee); Josie Johnson (Nature Connections); Nancy Jones (Nature Connections); Richard Helm (Properties); Don Hartshorn (Preschool Committee); Marijane Trotter ( Christian Ed Committee); Debbie Hanson (Church Life Committee); Katrina Larson (Toddler teacher, staff) and Catherine Price (Preschool teacher, staff). The group has been meeting since the beginning of May. They interviewed three nationally known playground design firms, checked references and selected Sara Kreiss who has certification in playground design and also nature explore classrooms. Sara has her own design build company, Spaces for Play, and will create the design, arrange removal of the old equipment and installation of the new equipment. The Task Force has been busy looking at a variety of play equipment and have gone through several draft site plans. It is very exciting.

As in all building projects at this time, rising costs and difficulty getting materials has slowed the construction process. However, hope is that the old equipment and installation of new equipment will take place by November.



# Photo Contest Winners Shine the Light on God's Natural Beauty



From Top to Bottom, Left to Right:

- Off Campus Winner - "What Are You Looking At?" by Anna Acker Kamasaki
- Off Campus Runner Up - "Who Are You?" by Taylor Buley
- On Campus Winner and Adult Best of Show - "Great Horned Owl" by Theresa Buley
- Youth Off Campus "Last Drop of Light" by Katie Kamasaki
- On Campus Runner Up - "Untitled" by Trent Trotter
- Youth On Campus - "Strawberries" by Katie Kamasaki
- Backyard Birds Winner - "Hummingbird and Sunflower" by Jeff Kamasaki
- Backyard Birds Runner Up - "Rosey, Our Red Breasted Nuthatch" by Judy Harris Helm

## LAST MINUTE INVITATION TO SOLVE A MURDER!

**Mark your calendars! Our Murder Mystery Dinner Show is coming back!**

WHERE: Barracks Cater Inn, 1224 W. Pioneer Parkway, Peoria

WHEN: Saturday, October 16, Doors open at 4:00 pm, Dinner at 5:00 pm

HOW MUCH: \$40.00 per person (no tax) Includes delicious dinner buffet and dessert bar

WHAT TO DO: Prepaid Reservations Only by calling or texting Becky at 309-256-1197

WHO DUN IT? We'll find out!!

Contact Charlotte Cronin for more information.



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## Weekly Events

### Sunday

- 9AM - Adult Sunday School resumes on September 12 on Zoom & in Room 107
- 10AM - Join us in person, or on YouTube, and Facebook for Worship. Children gather In the Narthex for Sunday School programming

### Tuesday

- 10AM - CoffeeTalk. Stay connected with these Zoom conversations

## Committees and Session Meetings

All meetings can have Zoom options. Please let the Committee Chair know in advance.

- Christian Education - 1st Sunday at 11:15AM (Chair: Pam Scranton)
- Church Life - 1st Monday at 6:30PM (Chair: Charlotte Cronin)
- Nature Connections - 2nd Wednesday at 6:00PM (Chair: Judy Helm)
- Preschool - 2nd Wednesday at 7:00PM (Co-Chairs: Andrew Harrison and Pam Scranton)
- Properties - 1st Monday at 6:30PM (Chair: Jim Pugh)
- Missional Engagement - 1st Tuesday at 7:00PM (Shared Chair. Contact Jenna Hague or Nicole Livesey)
- Worship & Arts - 2nd Sunday at 11:15AM (Co-Chairs: Mark Hanson and Jerry Sullivan)
- Human Resources - 2nd Tuesday at 6:00PM (Co-Chairs: Debbie Sullivan and Linda Kelley)
- Foundation - 2nd Tuesday at 7PM (Chair: Rich Helm)
- Stewardship & Finance - 3rd Tuesday at 7PM (Chair: Evan Hague)
- Session - 4th Tuesday at 7:00 PM

## Don't Forget Snack Pack Donations!

We are always in need of food items for our program. All items should be for individual use.

- Cereal
- Juice
- Snack items such as: pretzels, chips, cookies, fruit snacks,
- Mac N Cheese
- Ramen Noodles
- Individual Soups
- Ravioli
- Spaghetti O's
- Beef Stew, etc